UNDP

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Distributed on request
DP/PROJECTS/7263

ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A REGIONAL PROJECT OF EUROPE

IPF: (1992-96) $4 226 000
(RER/91/G31) - Environmental Management in the Danube River Basin

Date of approval by the AC: 1/	5 February 1992
Expected duration:	Four years
Proposed executing agency:	UNDP/OPS
Government implementing agency:	Danube River Basin Task force
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$8 500 000 Source of funds: GEF
Total UNDP budget:	$8 500 000

Project background

The River Danube is the second largest river in Europe. With a total length of over 2,000 km, its basin serves 80 million persons in eight European countries: Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Rumania and the Soviet Union. The river is a major source of fresh water in these countries used for drinking, irrigation, fishing, energy, transportation, sport, industries and waste disposal. Heavy usage has resulted in pollution; and concentrations of polluted sediment are accumulating in many stretches, particularly in the river delta. Furthermore, pollutants from the Danube have been carried into the Black Sea contributing to eutrophication. Consequently, the anaerobic bottom layer of the Black Sea has been increasing at an alarming rate over the last few decades.

In 1985 the "Bucharest Declaration" was signed by the riparian countries of the Danube river, initiating the process of solution through regional cooperation. A more comprehensive agreement is expected to be signed in 1991 to provide the framework for river pollution control and clean-up. Still lacking is critically important data on the nature, extent and sources of water pollution and a comprehensive strategy for remedial reforms. To provide environmental management in the Danube River Basin, UNDP assistance was requested under the present approval.

Description of project

The long-term objective of the project is to create the framework for a solution to Danube River water pollution.

1/ This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

...

The project will form the scientific, institutional and strategic basis for undertaking a Danube Action Programme under the auspices of an international commission for the protection of the Danube. It will include: (i) collection of available pollution emission data and preparation of a data inventory programme; (ii) creation of a databank and a regional data network; (iii) preparation of water quality criteria, and of a priority list of pollutants to be removed; (iv) detailed identification of policy and legal requirements; (v) selection of sites for new purification installations, focusing heavily polluted areas in Central/Eastern Europe; (vi) feasibility studies for investments in purification plants and pollution control devices; and (vii) institutional strengthening, in particular engineering capability in the least developed riparian countries eligible for GEF funding.

The project is composed of four immediate objectives which are interlinked with each other. These objectives will include: (a) establishment of country and intercountry databases and information systems on the source and extent of the problems, and the need to find solutions; (b) provision of immediate technical assistance requirements that are a prerequisite to the preparation of an Action Program; (c) training of key technical experts and managers that will be required in the implementation and management of the Action Program; and (d) preparation of a country/intercountry Investment Action Program.

Inputs

UNDP will provide the services of an expert in environmental institution building and training (36 man-months), short-term consultants, and related support services; a series of preinvestment studies as well as studies of the legislative framework needed to underpin long-term environmental policies to be undertaken under subcontract; training mainly in the form of workshops, study tours and short-term fellowships in environmental monitoring and management; and equipment to support experts, consultants and training programmes.

Financial data

	$
Personnel	1 535 000
Subcontract	3 150 000
Training	2 550 000
Equipment	97 000
Miscellaneous	168 000
Contingency Reserve	1 000 000
Total	8 500 000

..

- - - - -